

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 COME-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-09 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-14 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 AF-10

ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 /218 R

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3/27/73 - EXT. 20862

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R 282045 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: FUTURE STATUS OF ITC JOINT ADVISORY GROUP' S  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

REF: GENEVA A-62, GENEVA 1303

WE BELIEVE TECHCOM HAS HIGHLY IMPORTANT ROLE TO  
PLAY AND SHOULD BE RETAINED ON PERMANENT BASIS. ALTHOUGH  
WE REGRET EC INSISTENCE THAT MEMBERSHIP BE EXPANDED  
FROM 18 TO 24, WE NONETHELESS WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS  
CHANGE RATHER THAN SEE TECHCOM ABANDONED ALTOGETHER.  
FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS RE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS  
RAISED IN LAST PARAGRAPH OF REFAIR.

( A) IS THE U. S. WILLING TO RELINQUISH ITS SEAT  
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AS PART OF UNIFORM ROTATION PATTERN? NO. WE MAINTAIN STRONG INTEREST IN POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF ITC AND ARE MAJOR SOURCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN AND GATT. WE BELIEVE WE CAN BEST PROTECT THIS INTEREST BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATION ON TECHCOM.

(B) CAN U. S. ACCEPT TECHCOM WITH 24 MEMBERS? YES, IF THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE IT. FROM OUR VIEWPOINT PRESENT SIZE OF COMMITTEE IS ALREADY TOO CUMBERSOME; ADDITIONAL MEMBERS WILL ONLY RENDER IT MORE UNWIELDLY AND PERHAPS LESS EFFECTIVE. HOWEVER, WE REALIZE THIS MAY BE LEAST UNPALATABLE ALTERNATIVE

IN FACE OF PRESSURE FROM EC ON BEHALF OF DUTCH MEMBERSHIP AND THEREFORE WOULD RELUCTANTLY ACCEPT ENLARGEMENT. (COMMENT: THOUGH NOT IDEAL, MEMBERSHIP OF 24 IS NOT UNPRECEDENTED SINCE COMMITTEE HAS OPERATED AT THIS SIZE IN PAST.)

(C) WHICH OF THESE SOLUTIONS DOES U. S. PREFER TO ABANDONMENT OF TECHCOM ALTOGETHER? AS IS APPARENT FROM FOREGOING COMMENTS, INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP IS HIGHLY PREFERABLE TO ROTATIONAL SCHEME. ABOLITION OF TECHCOM WOULD ONLY REQUIRE CREATION OF SIMILAR AD HOC GROUP TO DISCHARGE SAME FUNCTION PRECEDING JAG SESSIONS.

(D) CAN US ACCEPT OUTSIDE CHAIRMAN, E. G., JAG CHAIRMAN, FOR TECHCOM? YES. FROM OUR STANDPOINT OUTSIDE CHAIRMAN OR ONE DRAWN FROM RANKS OF TECHCOM WOULD BE EQUALLY ACCEPTABLE AS LONG AS HE IS SKILLED CONFERENCE LEADER WITH BROAD EXPERTISE IN TRADE PROMOTION AND EXCELLENT WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF ITC. CHAIRMAN WITH THESE QUALIFICATIONS, AS WAS CASE WITH DAVID ROYCE OF UK WHO HEADED LAST MEETING, CAN MAKE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN TECHCOM'S PERFORMANCE. ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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